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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Items 3, 4, 5 and 8 of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Human rights: dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and other special rapporteurs

Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up

Information received from Governments

Mexico

Summary

The present document contains the responses of the Government of Mexico to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session, held in 2007. It also contains information on the country's activities, programmes and policies relating to indigenous peoples, the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

* E/C.19/2008/1.

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I. Follow-up to the recommendations of the experts of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues[1]

A. Responses to the recommendations to Governments on one or more items of the agenda of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum and previous sessions

Paragraph 19

1. Within the permanent system of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) for indigenous consultation and participation, the following activities have been carried out:

(a) Consultations on the drafting of the National Development Plan 2007-2012, consisting of 57 intercultural regional forums attended by 4,344 persons and generating more than 5,000 proposals;

(b) Follow-up to the consultations on the conservation of sacred sites of the Huichol People. Two working meetings were held with the Unión de Centros Ceremoniales of Jaliso, Durango and Nayarit to agree on mechanisms for disseminating the outcome of the consultations;

(c) Workshop to review the proposal on the plan for the management of the Wirikuta natural sacred site in Matehuala, San Luis Potosí. Thirty-six proposals and observations were formulated;

(d) Follow-up to the consultations on the Marine Ecological Code of the Gulf of California, with the presentation of the final report for review by the Commission for Indigenous Participation in the Marine Ecological Code of the Gulf of California, attended by representatives of the Cucapá, Seri, Mayo, Yaqui and Huichol peoples.

Paragraph 37

2. On 14 August 2001, amendments to articles 1, 2, 4, 18 and 115 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States were published in the Official Gazette of the Federation. This led to significant changes in the relationship between the State, indigenous peoples and society at large. In particular, article 2, as amended:

(a) Reaffirms recognition of the multicultural composition of the nation;

(b) Recognizes the right of indigenous peoples and communities to self-determination and, accordingly, to autonomy in deciding their internal forms of coexistence and organization;

(c) Establishes that the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination shall be exercised in an autonomous constitutional framework that guarantees national unity, and that indigenous peoples and communities shall be recognized in the constitutions and laws of the states of the Federation;

(d) Establishes the right of indigenous peoples — individually and collectively — to have full access to the nation's justice system;

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

(e) Provides that the federation, states and municipalities must establish institutions and formulate the necessary policies to guarantee the effective enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples and the integral development of their villages and communities;

(f) Sets out the obligations of federal, state and municipal authorities to provide for communities' needs;

(g) Article 2 (b), section IX, in particular, establishes the obligation to "consult indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the national development plan and state and municipal developments plans, and, where appropriate, to incorporate their recommendations and proposals".

Paragraph 43

3. Action under this recommendation is covered in paragraphs 12 and 13 of this report.

Paragraph 50

4. CDI participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, Canada, 15-19 October 2007) with a view to following up that theme.

Paragraph 51

5. CDI participated in the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 3 to 12 July 2007 with the aim of following up this specific theme. It also contemplated participating in that Committee's twelfth session, to be held in Geneva from 25 to 29 August 2008. In late 2007, CDI launched a plan for consultations on traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and genetic resources, which includes the sui generis system.

Paragraph 74

6. With regard to the rights of indigenous peoples, CDI took two approaches:

(a) Promoting recognition and effective enjoyment of indigenous rights:

(i) Legal opinions. Forty-five federal legislative initiatives were examined and legal opinions were given on them. This exercise covered the following areas: constitutional issues (seven), education (four), consultation (three), Office of the Public Defender (three), planning (three), social development (two), environment (two), traditional knowledge and knowledge of criminal procedure (two), CDI, economic issues, Afro-Mexicans, day workers, farming, fiscal issues, discrimination, finance, telecommunications, forest life, human rights, micro-industry and artisan activity, linguistic rights and women's rights. At the state level, six local implementing laws were analysed and legal opinions were given in the states of Baja California (indigenous rights and culture), Hidalgo (social development and indigenous courts), Jalisco (rights and development), Durango (indigenous rights and culture), Michoacán

(indigenous rights and culture), and the Federal District (indigenous rights and culture);

(ii) Analysis of multilateral international instruments on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the rights of indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge and biological diversity;

(iii) Promotion of rights. Lectures were delivered at various federal and state venues on the topics of recognition and effective enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples (Attorney-General of the Republic), and in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Mexico and the metropolitan area of the Federal District; new areas of research were identified together with the Agrarian Ombudsman; and the CDI system of consultation on indigenous rights was updated. CDI participated in a discussion with the legislative branch on draft reforms with regard to the Office of the Public Defender, linguistic rights, civil procedures and indigenous media. Support was given to the organization of a meeting on regulatory systems. CDI also worked with state congresses on the proposal of a legislative strategy for Sonora and Nuevo León;

(iv) With regard to international affairs, CDI shared information with the Latin American Parliament on the status of public and legislative indigenous policies in Mexico;

(b) Promotion of access to the justice system and fair treatment of indigenous peoples in the courts:

(i) CDI is taking coordinated action, in particular with regard to indigenous law and the qualification of indigenous translators and interpreters, as well as the proposal of ideas for radio spots on the Indigenous Culture Radio Broadcasting System to disseminate the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples;

(ii) The case of San Juan Bautista de la Laguna was considered with a view to having it recognized as an indigenous community of the state of Jalisco;

(iii) The second meeting of indigenous judges was held in Telchac Puerto, Yucatán.

Paragraph 115

7. CDI has 110 Focal Points for Indigenous Development (CCDIs) which, from an operational and administrative standpoint, are an extension of CDI in the indigenous regions. Their main objective is to identify the various problems in indigenous communities with a view to implementing programmes through plans and projects that will bring solutions.

Paragraph 116

8. CDI is carrying out the Project for Assistance to Displaced Indigenous Peoples (PAID), which provides the basic conditions to enable displaced indigenous populations to re-establish themselves, materially and culturally, in the places to which they have relocated, or from which they were expelled in the case of return, through the joint efforts of federal, state and municipal entities. Under this project, displaced indigenous families can acquire farmland, plots of land, building materials for houses and inputs to launch productive activities as compensation for material

losses they may have suffered as a result of acts of violence, armed conflict, human rights violations, or religious, political, cultural or ethnic intolerance, with the assurance that their cultural diversity will be fully respected.

Paragraph 128

9. CDI is responsible for identifying socio-demographic, economic and cultural characteristics of indigenous peoples and regions and for designing and executing procedures to verify the reliability of information and indicators on development and backwardness in certain indigenous regions, municipalities and villages. The aim of the operation is to establish a system of information and indicators on Mexico's indigenous peoples that would serve as a tool for assessing the status of their integral and sustainable development, as well as a framework for public policymaking and for increasing their informed participation in decision-making and thereby expanding their opportunities to choose their own lifestyle.

10. All CDI programmes and projects correspond to the reality reflected by the indicators and establish actions aimed at improving the economic, social and cultural situation of indigenous peoples and communities. They serve as a complement to many other activities being implemented under the programmes and projects of other Government departments and entities.

Paragraph 146

11. On 4 May 2007, CDI made a donation to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations in the amount of 125,000 Mexican pesos.

B. Government efforts in respect of indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals

12. All programmes under the CDI Office for the Coordination of Special Programmes and Projects contribute to the achievement of a number of Millennium Development Goals. It should be noted that their contribution is one among the many programmes and projects implemented by other departments and entities of the various branches of Government which will also contribute to achieving the Goals.

13. The correlation between each of the programmes and each of the Goals is set out in the table below.

Millennium Development Goal	*CDI Programme*	*Contribution*
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger CDI efforts complement the programmes of the Ministry of Social Development	Programme for the Coordination of Support for Indigenous Production (PROCAP) Indigenous Regional Funds Programme (FR)	The first two programmes support productive projects designed to help the indigenous population increase its income and thereby overcome poverty. PROCAP works in conjunction with the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to combat malnutrition.

Millennium Development Goal	*CDI Programme*	*Contribution*
	Basic Infrastructure for Assistance to Indigenous Peoples (PIBAI)	PIBAI has strengthened coordination with entities at various levels of Government by promoting and supporting the execution of electrification projects, rural and feeder road projects, and drinking water and sewerage projects for the indigenous population.
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education CDI efforts complement the programmes of the Ministry of Public Education	Programme of Indigenous Education Hostels	This programme offers housing and meals to indigenous children and youth to facilitate the completion of their studies. Providing meals also contributes to the attainment of Goal 1.
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women CDI efforts complement the programmes of the National Institute for Women (Inmujeres)	Indigenous Women's Productive Organization Programme (POPMI)	POPMI generates organizational processes that empower indigenous women and improve their standard of living and quality of life through productive projects, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goal 1 as well.
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality This is the province of the Ministry of Health.	Third level of service	Assistance to the indigenous population with health problems requiring specialized treatment
Goal 5. Improve maternal health This is the province of the Ministry of Health.	Third level of service	Assistance to the indigenous population with health problems requiring specialized treatment
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases This is the province of the Ministry of Health.	Third level of service	Assistance to the indigenous population with health problems requiring specialized treatment
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability CDI efforts complement the programmes of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)	All our programmes emphasize sustainable development Project for the Management and Conservation of Natural Resources in Indigenous Areas	Implementation of projects that promote the use of environmentally friendly technologies is supported and encouraged. Ecotechniques are used at all times in programmes to support the implementation of productive projects.
Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development	Programme for the Coordination of Support to Indigenous Production (PROCAP) Regional Indigenous Funds Programme (FR)	While support for information and communication technologies is not a priority of these programmes, they do support cyber-cafés in indigenous areas, thereby contributing to the achievement of this Goal.

14. In 2006, CDI drafted "Millennium Development Goals and the indigenous peoples of Mexico", a section of the document entitled *Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en México: Informe de Avance 2006 (The Millennium Development Goals in Mexico: advance report 2006)*.

15. In preparing it, various country-programme indicators for each Goal were reviewed and, where possible, the same specific indicators were established for the indigenous population. In cases where this could not be done using the available sources of information, alternative indicators, disaggregated by indigenous and non-indigenous population, were developed. For those indicators on which information is either questionable or did not exist, the corresponding report was submitted.

II. Government efforts with respect to indigenous children and youth, indigenous women, collection and disaggregation of information and free, prior and informed consent

A. Children and youth

16. CDI runs the Programme of Indigenous Education Hostels (PAEI), which provides housing for indigenous children from villages without educational facilities in order to ensure their access to basic education. The programme provides housing, meals and health care, reinforces cultural identity and organizes recreational activities. There are 1,085 indigenous education hostels in 21 states.

17. The Programme provides the following forms of assistance:

(a) Education hostels provide housing and meals;

(b) School dining halls provide meals and other activities for indigenous children and youth staying in the village where the education centre is located and whom a nutrition diagnosis has determined to be in need of food assistance;

(c) Community shelters provide learning support services to students at the basic, middle and higher levels;

(d) Family shelters support families and provide housing and meals to students during the school cycle.

18. Within the framework of the gender equity policy, 46 per cent of the total population in these hostels are girls, an encouraging indicator, given the social and cultural environment of indigenous families.

B. Indigenous women

19. The objective of the Indigenous Women's Productive Organization Programme (POPMI) is to provide substantial and ongoing support to building the skills and capacities of indigenous women living in extreme poverty in order to help them improve their living conditions through productive organization projects.

20. Various meetings of indigenous women were held in 2007, providing an opportunity for an exchange of views, experiences and information on the

organization and operation of their projects. Events were also held in conjunction with state and municipal Governments and with other federal departments or entities, providing an opportunity for various women's organizations to exchange entrepreneurial experiences and to find out about the availability of institutional support.

21. CDI has prepared a follow-up document for the Permanent Forum dealing specifically with the theme of indigenous women. The document is entitled "Programmes and Actions of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI) for indigenous women and the promotion of gender equity".

C. Collection and disaggregation of information

22. In 2007, CDI continued to cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the CDI-UNDP project entitled "Indigenous peoples in Mexico: for a culture of information", whose main objective is to promote a culture of information on the country's ethnic and cultural diversity as one of the basic underlying principles for consolidation of the 2008 system of information and indicators.

23. The main activities carried out were:

(a) Completion of the review of basic indigenous indicators at the local level on the basis of the Second 2005 Population and Housing Census taken by the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI). A compact disc entitled "Indigenous Villages 2005", showing pictures of village life and giving specific information on the indigenous population, was made;

(b) Implementation of a project entitled "Establishment of Vector-file Cartography at a scale of 1:250,000 and Road and Electrification Projects for 25 Indigenous Regions". This project incorporates information on roads built or scheduled to be built by PIBAI as well as PIBAI electrification projects in the country's 25 indigenous regions in the 2000-2006 period. It also provides information on PIBAI road and electrification projects for the 2007-2012 period;

(c) With the aim of identifying what the indigenous population is lacking in terms of education, basic social infrastructure, housing and household income, the "social backwardness index" was developed at the level of the state, indigenous regions and municipalities in 2000 and 2005. This study included a backwardness index for each of the above-mentioned variables and an overall social backwardness indicator to help determine strategies for addressing each specific situation and focus action on the municipalities most in need;

(d) The book entitled *Basic Indicators on the Indigenous Population in Mexico* was published. This book gives information on the characteristics of the indigenous population in each state, the human development index for the indigenous peoples in each of the Mexican states, the population of each state by ethno-linguistic group and investment in basic infrastructure between 2002 and 2006;

(e) The project entitled "Analysis of Violence and Women's Health" was carried out jointly with the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in eight indigenous regions in Mexico. Based on the 2006 Survey of Indigenous Women's

Health and Rights (ENSADEMI, 2006), it analysed data obtained on women's health conditions, and on violence against women and their access to the justice system in eight of the country's indigenous regions. The study contains recommendations on public policy, addressing needs, and on the type of information and research that could be useful. These recommendations were formulated on the basis of the findings of the Survey. An executive report and a general report containing the results of the analysis will be published in 2008;

(f) The integral and sustainable development of indigenous peoples cannot be guaranteed if the natural resources and biological heritage safeguarded by indigenous peoples in their settlements and regions are overlooked. In this connection, a database on natural resources, biodiversity and agro-diversity in the 25 indigenous regions was designed. This database contains information on the collection of water on the basis of annual rainfall isohyets,[2] an inventory of vegetation cover and soil use, the location of protected natural areas and priority areas for the conservation of biological diversity;

(g) An agreement was signed with the National Anthropology and History Institute (INAH) on the joint publication of a book entitled *Biocultural heritage of the indigenous peoples of Mexico*. This book will make information available, for the first time, on the potential of the indigenous territories, which will be useful in formulating public policies that target bio-cultural areas for the in situ conservation of ecosystems through the application of indigenous knowledge of, inter alia, water and soil.

24. The following activities were carried out under the CDI-UNDP cooperation agreement:

(a) A hard-copy version of the *Human Development Report on the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico* (IDH-PI) was published. By analysing the figures in the human development index of the indigenous peoples of Mexico, the differences between the indigenous and non-indigenous populations could be identified, as well as backwardness in the human development of territorial units at the state, regional and municipal levels. The *Human Development Report on the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico 2006* contains a detailed analysis of trends in the indigenous human development index by population sector at the state, regional and municipal levels;

(b) Maternal mortality in indigenous towns was assessed for the purpose of developing an indicator that would measure indigenous maternal mortality and identify risk factors. For the first time, there is an indicator that reflects the level and intensity of mortality among indigenous women in Mexico and establishes the level of maternal mortality in Mexican towns relative to the proportion of indigenous inhabitants;

(c) The National Case-Study on Indigenous Peoples of Mexico, providing information on the social, cultural, economic and political characteristics of the indigenous peoples in contemporary Mexico, was published. This case-study was also translated into Nahuatl, Maya and English. Publication of those versions is scheduled for 2008;

[2] Isohyet: a curve that joins points on a cartographic plane that have the same amount of rainfall in the unit of time considered.

(d) This year, three workshops on socialization indicators were held. The workshops were attended by staff, operators and technicians of the CDI delegations, Focal Points for Indigenous Development (CCDIs) and indigenous radio broadcasters in Baja California, Veracruz and Puebla.

D. Free, prior and informed consent

25. The Act establishing CDI, published in the Official Gazette on 21 May 2003, provides for the establishment of an advisory council designed to function as a consultative body responsible for liaison with indigenous peoples and society at large.

26. The Advisory Council is a collegiate, pluralist body through which CDI seeks to enter into constructive and inclusive dialogue with indigenous peoples and society at large. In accordance with the Act, most of the members of the Council are indigenous people (article 12).

27. The Advisory Council's mandate involves assessing and commenting on Government policies, programmes and activities for the advancement of indigenous peoples and making relevant proposals to the Governing Body of the Commission and its Director-General.

28. In 2007-2008, the Advisory Council was composed of 198 councillors.

29. In the area of consultations with indigenous peoples and communities, the following activities were undertaken:

(a) Consultations on the preparation of the national development plan 2007-2012;

(b) Follow-up to the consultations on conserving the sacred sites of the Huichol people;

(c) Workshop to review the proposed plan for the management of the Wirikuta natural sacred site, in Matehuala, San Luis Potosí;

(d) Follow-up to the consultations on the Marine Ecological Code of the Gulf of California;

(e) Preparation of the final reports and publicity materials relating to the consultations on alcoholism and indigenous peoples and indigenous migration;

(f) Conclusion of the first phase of consultations on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(g) Holding of four informational seminars for indigenous peoples and communities in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Veracruz in order to raise awareness of the programme for rural electrification from renewable sources in Mexico, as part of the Programme for Comprehensive Energy Services coordinated by the Ministry of Energy;

(h) With regard to the consultation system, ongoing maintenance and restructuring of the web-based system for indigenous consultation and participation (SICOPI).

III. Obstacles to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

30. Recommendations should be fewer in number and focus on tangible results that can be easily monitored.

31. The number of indigenous people living in each country differs from country to country, which hinders the implementation of recommendations by those countries with large numbers of indigenous people because greater budgetary resources are required.

32. Another obstacle is the refusal of some indigenous communities to participate.

33. The limited time frame in which to implement the recommendations is yet another obstacle.

IV. Factors that may facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

34. The following factors may facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:

(a) The establishment of CDI and the consequent strengthening of the body responsible for indigenous peoples and communities, as well as the creation within that body of forums for indigenous discussion, consultation and participation;

(b) The introduction of efficient and effective means of dissemination, such as Mexico's Indigenous Culture Radio Broadcasting System, which is part of CDI;

(c) Greater participation and coordination with Member States of United Nations bodies and, in Mexico's case, with UNDP in its capacity as United Nations Resident Coordinator;

(d) The inclusion of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum in country cooperation arrangements drawn up by international cooperation agencies.

V. Laws, policies and other similar mechanisms to address indigenous issues

35. Article 2 of the Political Constitution confers constitutional status on indigenous rights, which are recognized by International Labour Organization Convention No. 169, and reaffirms a number of the provisions of the now repealed article 4, including:

(a) The multicultural composition of the nation;

(b) The concept of indigenous peoples and communities;

(c) The recognition of the right of indigenous peoples and communities to self-determination and autonomy;

(d) The collective rights of indigenous peoples;

(e) The obligation of the federal Government, states and municipalities to guarantee the realization of indigenous rights and the comprehensive development of indigenous peoples and communities.

36. The collective rights of indigenous peoples and communities are set out in article 2, paragraph A, of the Constitution. Individuals can enjoy those rights by virtue of their status as members of an indigenous community:

(a) Right to be recognized as an indigenous people or community;

(b) Right to self-classification;

(c) Right to autónomy;

(d) Right to self-determination;

(e) Right to apply internal legal systems;

(f) Right to maintain cultural identity;

(g) Right to land and territory;

(h) Right to be consulted and participate;

(i) Right to full access to the justice system;

(j) Right to development.

37. At the federal level, legislation has evolved even more slowly, and changes have been less dramatic and somewhat superficial. It would therefore appear that internal debate and personal commitment are needed if the intercultural phenomenon is to be fully understood.

38. Only a few federal laws have been amended as a result of the 2001 reform. To date, we have identified and assessed only 30 acts and codes which make some reference to the topic at issue:

- Act establishing the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI);
- General Act on the Linguistic Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Federal Code of Civil Procedure;
- Federal Criminal Code;
- Federal Code of Criminal Procedure;
- Attorney-General's Office Organization Act;
- Act on the Treatment of Juvenile Offenders for the Federal District for Ordinary Crimes and for the Entire Republic for Federal Crimes;
- Social Rehabilitation of Convicts (Minimum Standards) Act;
- Federal Public Defenders Act;
- General Act on Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection;
- General Wildlife Act;
- General Act on Sustainable Forestry Development;

- Act on Sustainable Rural Development;
- Act on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms;
- Agrarian Act;
- General Education Act;
- Act on the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents;
- General Health Act;
- Social Insurance Act;
- General Act on Persons with Disabilities;
- Federal Civil Service Organization Act;
- Capitalization Act of Programa de Apoyos Directos al Campo (Programme for Direct Support to the Rural Areas) (PROCAMPO);
- Act on Civilian Awards, Incentives and Bonuses;
- Act on the National Coat of Arms, Flag and Anthem;
- General Act on Women's Access to a Life Free From Violence;
- Planning Act;
- General Act on Social Development;
- Social Security Act;
- Federal Act for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination;
- Federal Copyright Act.

39. The purpose of CDI is to guide, coordinate, promote, support, foster, follow up and evaluate Government programmes, projects, strategies and activities aimed at the comprehensive and sustainable development of indigenous peoples and communities and the full exercise of their rights, in accordance with article 2 of the Political Constitution.

40. The following principles guide the work of CDI:

(a) Respect for the multi-ethnic and multicultural nature of the nation;

(b) Support for activities to eradicate discrimination and social exclusion and to construct a society that will be inclusive, pluralist, tolerant and respectful of intercultural differences and dialogue;

(c) Promotion of a holistic and cross-cutting approach to policies, programmes and activities implemented by the federal Government for the advancement of indigenous peoples and communities;

(d) Promotion of sustainable development in order to ensure the rational use of natural resources from indigenous regions without endangering the heritage of future generations;

(e) Inclusion of a gender perspective in policies, programmes and activities implemented by the federal Government to promote the participation of indigenous women, respect for their rights, equity and unrestricted opportunities;

(f) Consultations with indigenous peoples and communities whenever the federal executive branch initiates legislative reform, administrative acts, development programmes or projects having a significant impact on the quality of life and surroundings of those groups.

41. The functions of CDI are:

(a) To support and cooperate with federal bodies in order to formulate and monitor policies, programmes and activities;

(b) To coordinate with state governments and negotiate with the public and private sectors in order to implement programmes and activities;

(c) To design and operate a system of consultation and participation for indigenous peoples and communities;

(d) To carry out research and studies;

(e) To draw up and implement programmes and activities for the advancement of indigenous peoples in cases where such activities do not fall within the purview of other bodies;

(f) To develop capacity-building strategies in order to devote greater attention to the needs of indigenous peoples;

(g) To propose and promote the measures needed to comply with the provisions of article 2 (b) of the Political Constitution.

42. In order to mainstream a multicultural perspective into their work, a number of Government departments have established specialized bodies or sections to deal with indigenous issues.

43. It should be noted that certain Government departments have to deal with a significant demand for services from indigenous people. The table below shows that structures for addressing the needs of indigenous people exist only in the areas of education, health, access to justice and protection of human rights; the remaining Government departments lack such mechanisms.

Unit	*Hierarchical position*	*Responsibilities*
Special Indigenous Affairs Unit	Part of the Office of the Assistant Attorney-General for Human Rights, Victim Support and Community Services of the Office of the Attorney-General	Dealing with federal offences involving individuals belonging to indigenous groups; formulating technical and legal opinions on proceedings involving indigenous peoples; coordinating with other bodies; acting as a focal point for relevant experts
General Coordinating Office for Bilingual Intercultural Education	General Directorate for Indigenous Education, part of the Department of Basic Education and Teacher Training of the Ministry of Public Education	Improving the quality of educational services provided to indigenous peoples; promoting bilingual intercultural education for indigenous peoples at all levels and developing intercultural education for all Mexicans; proposing and monitoring pedagogical standards, curricula, study plans and programmes,

Unit	*Hierarchical position*	*Responsibilities*
		teaching methods, materials and aids, and mechanisms to evaluate learning within the indigenous educational system
National Institute of Indigenous Languages	Decentralized agency of the Ministry of Public Education	Preserving, strengthening, developing and promoting indigenous languages; proposing public policies to protect those languages and ensure their continuing use in all areas of daily life in their respective territories of origin and areas of influence
Directorate for Traditional Medicine and Intercultural Development	General Directorate for Health-Care Planning and Development, Ministry of Health	Adopting a holistic approach to health care for indigenous peoples and communities in order to ensure effective access to health-care services by broadening the coverage offered by the national system and making appropriate use of traditional medicine; promoting proper nutrition among the indigenous population, particularly children, by means of food programmes
General Directorate for Popular Culture	Agency of the National Council for Culture and the Arts	Promoting the study, conservation, dissemination and development of Mexico's popular and indigenous cultures
Sub-Directorate for Indigenous Peoples	Part of the Sub-Directorate-General for Social Participation, Ethnicity and Gender of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources	Participating in efforts to improve the quality of life of indigenous peoples through a series of activities focusing on the management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and of the biodiversity present in indigenous territories
National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination	Agency attached to the Ministry of the Interior	Implementing measures designed to prevent and eliminate discrimination

VI. National bodies dealing with indigenous affairs

44. The Mexican Government has established CDI, a decentralized, autonomous federal Government agency with a legal personality, its own resources and functional, technical, budgetary and administrative independence. CDI has its head office in the Federal District of Mexico City and operates in 24 states of the Mexican Republic through 110 Focal Points for Indigenous Development (CCIDs), one Centre for Research, Information and Documentation (CRID) on the Indigenous Peoples of Mexico, 28 regional CRIDs and 1,085 indigenous education hostels.

45. For more detailed information on CDI, please consult the following website: www.cdi.gob.mx.

VII. Training programmes on indigenous issues for civil servants

46. CDI has set up a capacity-building programme, the objective of which is to develop guidelines and design and implement training schemes and models relating to strategic areas of indigenous policy with a view to strengthening institutional capacity to address the specific issues facing indigenous peoples.

47. During the period in question, priority attention was devoted to building capacity in areas relating to access to justice, including the delivery and administration of justice and prosecution. The following activities should be highlighted:

(a) Design of a specialized course on indigenous law geared towards public defenders and staff of the Federal Institute of Public Defence and CDI;

(b) Seminar entitled "Indigenous rights and access to the criminal justice system", geared towards policy officials from the Office of the Attorney-General and civil servants dealing with issues relating to the human rights of indigenous peoples;

(c) Seminar entitled "Mediation, restorative justice and other alternative forms of justice in indigenous communities", geared towards staff from the Ministry of Public Security and designed to take those mechanisms into account in the context of crime prevention strategies;

(d) Training workshop on mediation in disputes relating to indigenous issues, geared towards community liaison officers from regional offices and CCID staff;

(e) First meeting of indigenous judges in the state of Hidalgo in order to evaluate judicial proceedings within indigenous communities and the authority figures responsible for dispensing justice within those communities;

(f) First inter-institutional professional diploma for indigenous interpreters and/or translators awarded in the state of Guerrero.

48. CDI introduced its Professional Career Service (SPC) on 1 January 2008, in accordance with the decision taken by its Governing Body on 9 April 2007. With a view to enhancing the professionalism of civil servants, the Service will work to improve the transparency of the Commission's procedures for recruitment and selection, the award of incentives and the evaluation of staff performance, and to ensure that those procedures offer equal opportunities and are merit-based. Those efforts will result in improved and integrated management and enhance the quality of the work done by the Commission to ensure the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and communities.

VIII. Activities relating to the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

49. While CDI is not aware of any specific national plan for the implementation of the goal, objectives and programme of action of the Second International Decade of

the World's Indigenous People, they do inform the activities of its own staff, particularly those relating to the implementation of programmes and projects.

50. In order to achieve the comprehensive development of indigenous peoples and communities, CDI collaborates with lead Government agencies in the relevant areas. However, CDI does not have sole responsibility for indigenous affairs. The programme of action of the Second International Decade refers to issues such as health, culture, education, human rights, the environment and economic and social development. CDI is not responsible for guiding public policies on those issues or for the total amount of resources allocated, and thus the design and implementation of the aforementioned plan does not fall within its exclusive purview.

51. In addition to CDI, the departments responsible for dealing with the above-mentioned issues are:

(a) Culture: National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA);

(b) Education: Ministry of Public Education, National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALi);

(c) Health: Ministry of Health;

(d) Human Rights: Ministry of the Interior;

(e) National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH);

(f) Environment: Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, National Commission on Biodiversity, National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), among others;

(g) Economic and Social Development: Ministry of Social Development.

IX. Special theme of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum: "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

52. The Mexican Government views climate change as a priority issue. Accordingly, on 25 April 2005 it established the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change (CICC), the purpose of which is to coordinate national activities relating to the design and implementation of relevant policies.

53. CICC is composed of seven Government ministries[3] and its standing chairman is the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources. The Committee has also established an Advisory Council on Climate Change, which brings together representatives of civil society, academic institutions and members of the Council for Sustainable Development.

54. In May 2007, the President of the Republic introduced the national strategy on climate change. Civil society provided input into the strategy, as illustrated by the

[3] Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food; Ministry of Communications and Transport, Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources; Ministry of Energy and Ministry of External Relations. The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit is a permanent observer.

fact that, on 2 August 2006, the Advisory Council held a public consultation to assess the draft version.

55. Although indigenous representatives have been encouraged to take part in such consultation exercises, their participation still falls short of the desired levels. Accordingly, during the preparation of the special programme on climate change for 2008-2012, one of the primary objectives will be to promote the widespread participation, at the national, regional and local levels, of indigenous peoples on issues relating to climate change.

X. Information relating to the promotion of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and suggestions as to how the Permanent Forum can, in accordance with article 42 of the Declaration, enter into constructive dialogue with Member States to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration

56. The measures taken to date by the International Affairs Unit of CDI in order to promote the Declaration are as follows:

(a) On 14 September 2007, the text of the Declaration was posted on the CDI website at the following address: http://www.cdi.gob.mx/index.php?id_seccion=2068;

(b) On 31 October 2007, with assistance from the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications of the Sub-Directorate-General for Innovation and Progress, all CDI employees were sent an e-mail containing the text of the Declaration and the text of the statement made by the Mexican delegation when it voted in favour of the adoption of the Declaration for dissemination to the general public;

(c) On 31 October 2007, official letter No. UPC/AAI-213/07 was sent to Renato Vera Osuna, General Coordinator for Regional Offices of the Coordination and Liaison Unit (UCE). The letter asked him to distribute the Declaration to CDI regional offices and CCIDs and instructed him to ensure that it was disseminated to the general public;

(d) In response to the aforementioned letter, Renato Vera Osuna issued circular No. UCE/CGD/037/07, dated 5 November 2007, to regional and subregional offices, heads of department, CCID directors and chiefs of indigenous radio stations. The circular contained a copy of the Declaration and underlined the obligation of all staff working with CDI to be familiar with it and to keep it in mind when exercising their functions. It also called on staff to disseminate the Declaration and even suggested establishing reading and study groups;

(e) On 31 October 2007, in official letter No. UPC/AAI-214/07, the Unit asked the Director of Intercultural Communication for UCE, to prepare scripts for radio spots on the Declaration so that it could be disseminated in the various indigenous languages over the Indigenous Culture Radio Broadcasting System. The Director of Intercultural Communication for UCE has already submitted the relevant

proposals, which are currently being reviewed by the Department of Indigenous Rights and the International Affairs Unit;

(f) The aforementioned letter also called for the Declaration to be reprinted in booklet form so that it could be distributed, initially in the Spanish language. The first batch of 7,000 copies will be distributed to CDI head offices, regional offices, CCIDs, the Indigenous Culture Radio Broadcasting System and the members of the Advisory Council, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international affairs units of the various other ministries;

(g) As part of its work within the framework of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (Indigenous Peoples' Fund), CDI has already expressed its wish to take part in the programme on indigenous peoples' rights so that it can use resources from the Fund to print booklets containing the Declaration in the main indigenous languages spoken in Mexico;

(h) During the special session to discuss the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which took place at the headquarters of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. on 26 and 27 November 2007, the Mexican delegation, which included three CDI staff members, supported the proposal on the establishment of an action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the hemisphere put forward by the Cónclave Indígena de las Américas.

57. **CDI recommends that the Permanent Forum should organize a meeting with its experts with a view to providing information both to individuals and to the authorities responsible for ensuring the effective enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Declaration. CDI also suggests that the meeting should be recorded and distributed in digital form, with interpretation into all official languages of the United Nations, so that States can disseminate it to a larger number of individuals.**